



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City wins Clean Air Awards

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Take one city program to make energy using restaurant grease; a crusading teen scientist studying air purifiers; and add a 39-year-old clean air advocacy group and what do you get?

Answer: Three 20th Annual Clean Air Awards from the South Coast Air Quality Management District held Oct. 1 in Los Angeles.

“Riversiders took home three out of eight awards and that speaks volumes for the clean air efforts we’ve been pursuing for many years,” said Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge.

The city’s Grease to Gas Program won the Model Community Achievement Award. The program imports restaurant grease that would otherwise clog city sewers, treats them in an anaerobic digester tank and produces methane used to generate power.

Otana Jakpor, a Woodcrest Christian High School student in Riverside, was honored with the Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship Award for her research about the harmful ozone effects of indoor air purifiers. Her work has led to new state regulations on the industry.

Clean Air Now, an organization founded in Riverside in 1969, won the Public Education on Air Quality Issues Award for its Clean Air Challenge, a science-based curriculum for middle school students about pollutants and their effects on public health.

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